

MEDIA RELEASE

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Newport News Welcomes Groups to Southeastern Virginia for the Holidays

Newport News, VA – From Thanksgiving to New Year's Day, Newport News is the perfect “headquarters” for your tour group to explore and experience all the holiday events and activities the Southeastern region of Virginia has to offer. Whether your group is looking for old-world traditions or modern day celebrations, Newport News is where you'll want to stay.

Beginning November 27, Newport News Park glitters and glows, sparkles and shines when over 650,000 lights create a dazzling kaleidoscope of color in Celebration in Lights. Virginia's oldest drive-through light event, Celebration in Lights, has been delighting groups from throughout the United States since 1993. Add to this spectacular Virginia original, the annual holiday light shows in neighboring Norfolk and Virginia Beach, the city skyline illuminations in Portsmouth and Norfolk and Colonial Williamsburg's world-famous Grand Illumination and we've got more lights than Santa Claus' workshop!

Your group will also find our historic homes decked out in their period holiday best, with special tours throughout the season, as well as holiday-themed events and exhibits at our attractions. Annual favorites include Artful Holidays at the Peninsula Fine Arts Center; Antebellum Holidays at Lee Hall Mansion; Christmas at Endview at Endview Plantation and A Newsome Christmas at The Newsome House Museum & Cultural Center.

On the entertainment front, the holidays always bring great performers to our venues: Ferguson Center for the Arts, the Yoder Barn Theatre and Peninsula Community Theatre, as well as the

brand-new Ella Fitzgerald Theater at the Downing Gross Cultural Arts Center. Among this year's highlights are: *ABBA – The Music*; the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra; Broadway's *Spirit of Christmas*; Dave Koz & Friends Smooth Jazz Christmas; the Glenn Miller Orchestra's Christmas Concert; *RAIN: The Beatles Experience*, and The Tanya Tucker Family Christmas Tour. Three other entertainment options sure to delight everyone in your group are Hollydazzle, Newport News' high-tech illumination event, and Laser Holidays and Star of Wonder, both at the Virginia Living Museum's planetarium theatre.

Since we know finding that special gift for that special someone is an important part of many people's holiday traditions, we want to assure you that your group will find plenty of great shopping opportunities here as well. From our wonderful museum gift shops to our unique and eclectic boutiques and national retailers, we can make quick work of your gift list.

So, what are you waiting for? Southeastern Virginia always throws a great holiday party and you're invited! Bring your tour group to Newport News for the holidays and collect a stocking-full of precious memories. For additional information and assistance in booking your group holiday trip, or to receive a complimentary copy of our new 120-page Group Planner and Resource Guide, contact Todd Swindell, group tour marketing manager for the Newport News Tourism Development Office, at 757-926-1442, toll-free at 888-493-7386, or by e-mail at tswindell@nngov.com.

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